

FBIS 83

CIC AGENT'S TRIAL IN PRAQUE

PRAQUE CTK INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1730 GMT 24 OCT 67 L

(TEXT) PRAQUE--KAREL BEJCEK, WHOSE LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE WAS VIENNA 2, VORGARTENSTRASSE 215, WAS SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS IMPRISONMENT BY THE REGIONAL COURT IN CESKE BUDEJOVICE FOR ESPIONAGE. BEJCEK, WHO WAS BORN ON 30 OCTOBER 1915, ACCEPTED THE SENTENCE, WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE BEGINNING 20 OCTOBER 1967.

ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, ISSUED HERE TODAY, KAREL BEJCEK ARRIVED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON 25 MAY THIS YEAR AS A TOURIST. HE IS THE SAME KAREL BEJCEK WHO, TOGETHER WITH KAREL GRUBER AND OTHERS, WAS IN THE SERVICE OF THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION, CIC, FOR HIS ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. GRUBER WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN 1954, BUT PROCEEDINGS COULD NOT BE INITIATED AGAINST BEJCEK, AS HE WAS IN AUSTRIA AT THAT TIME, THE STATEMENT CONTINUES.

BEJCEK WAS ARRESTED AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IT WAS PROVED THAT BETWEEN 1945 AND 1949 HE WAS GUILTY OF INTENSIVE SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES AND THAT HE ALSO ILLEGALLY LED PERSONS OVER THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER TO AUSTRIA IN 1949. IN 1950 HE MET KAREL GRUBER, AN AGENT OF THE CIC IN VIENNA WHO TOOK HIM TO THE CIC NETWORK AND ACQUAINTED HIM WITH FURTHER AGENTS.

THE AGENTS WITH WHOM BEJCEK CAME INTO CONTACT WITH IN VIENNA INCLUDED RUDOLF LACI--REAL NAME LADISLAV MALY--A KNOWN TERRORIST WHO KILLED THE OFFICIALS OF THE LOCAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN BABICE IN JULY 1951, AND CIC AGENT LADISLAV LUKES--REAL NAME VLADIMIR LUTOVSKY--WHO KILLED THE CZECH POLICEMAN JOSEF PLONER, THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR CONTINUES.

BEJCEK BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH OTHER CIC AGENTS, INCLUDING MILOS--KNOWN AS EX-CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY MAJOR, WHO ILLEGALLY LEFT CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1948 AND WORKED FOR AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

BEJCEK FULLY ADMITTED HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE CIC. AS A CIC AGENT HE BROUGHT 114 AGENTS OVER THE BORDER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ARRANGED THEIR ACCOMMODATIONS AND CONTACTS WITH OTHER PERSONS. HE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN ESTABLISHING A CIC NETWORK IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. FOR HIS SERVICE HE RECEIVED REGULAR PAY IN AUSTRIAN CURRENCY. THIS WAS HIS ONLY MEANS OF SUPPORT IN 1950 AND 1951.

ALL THE FACTS ADMITTED BY BEJCEK DURING HIS INVESTIGATION WERE CONFIRMED BY OTHER WITNESSES WHO COLLABORATED WITH BEJCEK AND WHO WERE ARRESTED AND SENTENCED IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE STATEMENT CONCLUDES.